

A. F. U. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION

206 Agency Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Phone 25965

VOL. III.

Edmonton, Alberta, December, 1943.

NUMBER 12.

Christmas Greetings To All Friends and Members



TO each and every one of you,
I wish a most Joyous
Christmas. May the sorrows of
the times be alleviated by the
joys of the season, and the
shadows that fall over all
hearts be lightened by the
STAR.

In extending traditional Christmas Greetings, let us all do so in the certain knowledge that we all are united in the cause of TRUTH and CHRISTIAN civilization, and bear constantly in mind the Message of two thousand years ago.

May each of you savor the abundant life during this Christmas season, also the years to come.

May next Christmas bring peace and the re-union of all families which war has banished. May the message of the Prince of Peace be engraved in the hearts of all men, echoed in their speech, for all to hear, and all to heed. PEACE ON EARTH: GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Mrs. J. Geddes, Winterburn, Alberta.

A Broadcast from CFRN

Good Evening Fellow Farmers:

It is held to be a very risky and rather foolish thing to try and foretell what the future has in store for us; but I think it is perhaps even more risky to disregard the signs of the times and not take any warning from those shadows which coming events are already casting before them.

I remember hearing of a man a good many years ago who was quite fond of saying, "Your tongue is given you to disguise your thoughts with", and at the time I thought it was rather cynical, but it has a wide vogue today and as we gaze at the mess into which our so-called civilization has fallen, the thought is continually thrust rather abruptly into our minds that present day political leaders have become very clever at this pastime of disguising their real thoughts in a mass of verbiage that seems as if it is deliberately intended to mislead. After all, what does our present day civilization amount to? And I do not mean just at present, while the war is on. Perhaps we are not faring too badly during the stress of present happenings. But what of the times before the 1st great war and the 20 years between that and the present war. Our working people have never known real peace. With them it is a constant war against poverty or the fear of it in the future, and ill health. As a matter of fact it is during the so called times of peace that the economic fight for a decent living is waged the most bitterly, with friends and neighbours pitted against one another in deadly strife for the "job".

As Prime Minister Churchill remarked a few weeks ago he was sorry to admit that during a war more people seemed to have a share of happiness in spite of the sorrow occasioned; because they had more money and were sure of a job. What a damning indictment of our so-called "civilization".

CIVILIZATION

During that period which is referred to as the "gay nineties", I was getting my living in the largest city in the British Empire when it was said the streets of London were paved with gold and it would have been better if the gold had been used for the purpose of paving the streets rather than the use to which it was put because it might have been easier on the horses' feet than the road metal which was used; because it certainly did not help the poor people, and there were lots of them, who tramped those same streets looking for work and who some-

times had to sleep on a wet seat in a drizzling rain with only a newspaper between them and the cold wet stone on the Thames Embankment; or who picked their breakfasts out of the garbage cans of the better off ones, in those palmy days, as they were called. I was always a diligent reader and quite interested in politics and I cannot recall any of the so-called great men of that time who devoted any considerable amount of time or talent to even noticing the sprawling poverty which spread over that great city like a gigantic leprous sore. Even that so-called voice of the people, the London press, only mentioned the squalor of the masses in order to praise the patience, the fortitude, with which the workers made the best of their humble lot and tried to leave the impression that they really enjoyed their poverty and would have been unhappy without it. We have a reflection of the same sort of thing in the West here when the newspaper writers blather about the dauntless spirit of our pioneers (and they really must be dauntless if they can face an old age pension of \$20 per month, if they get that much), and the thrifty courage which enabled them to live on rabbits while they brushed and broke up a farm; and apparently expect them to live on even less now that the farm is cleared up.

No Nation is truly civilized as long as even a single one of its citizens is suffering from the lack of any of the amenities of life which the engineering devices of the present day make possible; and especially is no Nation entitled to call itself civilized as long as inequalities exist which have been established and maintained by LAW. To judge by their speeches, our present day leaders are either ignorant of the facts, which would be altogether inexcusable, or else they are using their tongues to conceal their thoughts in a very adroit manner. I don't think there ever was a time when we had so many men in positions of importance who have attained such adroitness in "passing the buck", as we have at present. I will give you an example of what I mean. The famous speech of Mr. Mackenzie King's in which he referred to the New World Order was couched in the following language. "The New Order is not something that will be born at the Conference Table. Unless it is on its way before the war is over, I am afraid we shall look for it in vain". The whole tenor of the speech was one that implied to most hearers that the Premier was in favour of doing immediately everything that was humanly possible to set the New Order on its way. But a careful analysis of the speech will reveal that it

could have meant the very opposite. The Prime Minister did not say that the Liberal Party would include a guarantee of an equitable New Order in their platform and the government would implement it. He did not say that any encouragement would be given to any comprehensive scheme to provide adequate pensions for dependents of killed or disabled men, nor for post war rehabilitation. He only said that if these things were not on their way, they would probably never come. This could mean something quite different to the meaning which most of us took out of it at the time. It **COULD** mean that the present government would not only **NOT** do anything to encourage the new order; but would definitely oppose it and the only way that it could then come would be if the people were to take such action among themselves, while the war was on, as would ensure such an overwhelming demand for the reforms, that no government could oppose them. They would not be **BORN** at the conference table. No, they would have to be born before then and have taken shape in the people's minds and reached such strength that they could not be turned aside. In reviewing the statement and the progress of events since it was uttered, we think **that** is what **was** meant and therefore it is a direct challenge to the Canadian people to see to it that they are in a position to not only make their demands for an acceptable New Order; but to enforce them. This being the case, we must see as a people that we do not fail to make known our requirements and especially is this true of us farmers at the present time.

DEBT

Mr. Ilsley has expressed his opinion that the year 1942 would compare favourably with the "good years" of the past and has prepared his income tax accordingly. We, as farmers, know that this is definitely not so and have sent a petition to the government stating our minimum requirements in order to carry on. The Alberta Farmers' Union has also presented briefs, from which some principles have been incorporated in the Bill for the Reduction and Settlement of Debts now being considered by the government. You will remember that our organization asked for a Moratorium while the position was being considered and then for Adjustment of Debt and Security of Tenure. After about 1000 applications for foreclosure have been made the Dominion government is taking action; but it remains to be seen what will be the manner of the Administration and the basis upon which adjustments will be made. This is vital. If passed, the Bill will be good legislation as far as it goes. But the Boards which are to be set up will have all the power to make the adjustments, fix interest rates, value the land and the

farmers equity therein and set the terms of repayment. As there was opposition to writing these specific terms into the Bill itself, we farmers must, if we mean real business, organize so as to present a United Front before the Tribunals. That can be done; and we must see through our organization, that it is done.

Under the existing debt structure we can never attain Parity Prices because the debt payment is the first claim upon our production and although we realize just as well as anyone else that the Real Wealth lies in Production and not in money, yet we cannot afford to and must not ignore the fact that the legal claim against that production is **in dollars** and that payment in dollars alone can settle a debt irrespective of the amount of production involved. This makes it of the utmost importance that the **VALUE** of our **PRODUCTION** shall be rightly interpreted in terms of dollars otherwise we can never succeed in paying even an adjusted debt. If the selling price of our produce is kept **LOW** enough we shall only succeed in building further debt in spite of our large production and we should then be in everlasting bondage to financial institutions and be just as much slaves as under any form of totalitarian government. Money has been one of the most effective methods of putting more and more power into fewer hands and when it is proposed to set up an international police force which will be under the control of an international money system it is time for the believers in Real Democracy to stir themselves and do something about it while they still have the democratic right to do so. Everyone knows that he who controls the purse strings, controls the policy and that is why the Bankers are urging the farmers to borrow again; now that the bankers are ready to lend!!

BANKERS AND FARMERS PROFITS

Apparently our friends the bankers think that a farmers gross income is all profit and therefore it is far from a comforting thought to know that a banker (Mr. Gordon of the War Time Prices and Trade Board) is in absolute control of the prices which we farmers are due to receive for our products because while in a bankers hands one dollar can become 10 fully grown dollars without any further nourishment, in the realm of practical farm production the **PIG** is the only animal which can approach this and even then the little pigs require considerable feed and care before they become fully grown. Although the bankers try to tell us in their early morning stories (which by the way are told before most of them get up and therefore it is reasonable to assume they are talking in their sleep) that the gross sale price of pigs is **ALL** profit, yet the ignorant farmer knows this is not so; and what is more, is able to prove it.

Let us take up Mr. King's challenge then

and see to it, with the co-operation of all other groups of Canadian workers that the New Order IS on its way BEFORE the war is over and our justification for raising the issue now, if any justification is needed, is contained in the rest of the quotation. UNLESS this New Order is on its way before the war is over, "We may look for it in vain".

To our way of thinking this is putting it up to all the different groups of organized workers in Canada to get this New Order BORN right now. We, as farmers, have a vital interest in this because although we produce enough to enable others to live well, we do not get enough leisure and social amenities to live well ourselves. We do not wish, however, to take from anyone else, that is not in our program and it is not necessary. There is plenty for all. Some adjustments are all that is needed and if the people will work in co-operation together, these can be made. It must be distasteful to all working productive people to have to listen to a small clique of financially minded men already planning for another age of scarcity after the war is won. It is **their** conception that money is Wealth and because they are so tied down by the traditions of a by-gone age (to put it in the kindest way possible) their

vision is so limited that they think the World's production of all the good and necessary things of life must be limited by the number of grains of a certain kind of dust which a few miners are able to gouge from the bowels of the Earth and when that has been accomplished, to rebury it in another place.

WITCHCRAFT

In other words the total production of 2 billion people, aided by all the machinery and power of this enlightened age is to be ruled and regulated by the lucky discoveries of a few thousand people at the most; the net result of whose labours is the uncovering of a small quantity of yellow metal, giving it a ride, — and then covering it up again. The futility of it all is so apparent that I am almost ashamed to relate it; but when we are faced with the threat that mighty nations, whose possible total productiveness cannot at present be calculated, are contemplating allowing hundreds of millions of their people being consigned to everlasting poverty because a few financiers worship the "yellow dust", it is time that all the intelligent people of the World united in putting their final veto on the further practice of such crude witchcraft.

Letters from Our Readers

We farmers, here in the Prairie Provinces, who are listening to the radio, have heard, many different speakers throughout Canada, United States and all so from Great Britain by means of the Radio Net Work.

Naturally, most of those speakers deal with the crisis which exists among most nations throughout the whole world at present. The main topic of every speaker is, to reinforce the war weapons against the enemy. Our Premier MacKenzie King, in his speech is very proud and glad of the work that is carried on here in Canada in the ammunition factories, tanks, aeroplanes, guns, and shipyards, all working speedily and successfully towards winning the great Victory in this world. Even Prime Minister Churchill the son of our Motherland, as he was called has come across the wide Atlantic to visit Canada and United States, to see and to praise the strong war weapons of Canada and those of the United States and also their men who are to operate these machines against their enemies.

The main and foremost item of the whole world is seldom mentioned by any of the military speakers and that is the greatest defence weapon of any country, which is the farmers and their most valuable products. None of those speakers

had ever spoken of how hard we farmers had to work and struggle in order to clear an acre of land of brush and stones, and to break it with a team of oxen, as we used to do when homesteading. Besides all that, a farmer takes a big risky chance, first whether the crop will be free of any harmful defects. Second if the crop does turn out successful, whether we will get a decent price to cover at least part of our expenses.

Every member of Parliament, must understand as well as we farmers that it is not the aeroplanes, guns, tanks and war ships only that carry on the war until Victory is won. It's that most valuable farm product which all men use, regardless whether at peace or in war. The very same weapon, with which Britain, France, United States and others have won the last Great War, and prospects are, that this war might be won because of the same great weapon. Men could fight without mechanical weapons but certainly will fail without the natural farm products. In 1918 Germany and Austria had laid down their arms not due to shortage of ammunition, guns, tanks or any other mechanical weapon, but only due to a shortage of farm products. The very product that for many years had no value judging by the actions of the Dominion Government.

The product that we work hard for so as to raise enough of it to supply Britain and also other countries with which Canada has been trading. When Canada borrows money she does not back up the note with factories, guns, ships or power plants. Whatever money is borrowed must be paid back with produce out of that land or with the land if not possible any other way. In that case most of those things which to-day are mostly spoken of, mean nothing. Only us farmers stand back behind our own debts and the countries debt besides.

I wish to announce to all the farmers that if we should mean that little to our Government then it is certain that we must cut our production in wheat, cattle and hogs to a third or less of what we have been producing till now.

I am very glad to see that we farmers here in the Prairie Provinces are making such head way in co-operating and uniting together. We farmers understand as well as any other industrial men, that if we don't protest ourselves and better our standard of living no one else cares to.

P. A. Skish.

Secretary Bruno Local No. 341.

WAYS TO GET MEMBERS

Please send me two membership receipt books for membership applications.

I got all these members by going to auction sales and a few by going to see them after supper at different times.

They wouldn't join at first but after a little talk with them I had no trouble.

Yours truly,

Donald Olekszyk, Local No. 468.

Bashaw, Alberta,
November 23rd, 1943.

Dear Sir:

In regard of our Directors of our Local No. 496 I am supposed to write for some more manifestos, constitutions and by-laws of the Alberta Farmers' Union. We are really out to canvass the districts which are un-organized yet which I think is really what they all should do and we would get some place soon.

Would you mind sending us 24 copies of the manifesto, 24 copies of the Constitution and By-Laws and six Receipt books and also some sample copies of the A. F. U. Bulletin.

Yours truly,

Secretary,

Manfred Local No. 496,

William Fuerst, Bashaw, Alberta.

*

This is the local which won the bacon pig in the first contest and they are going after it again.

CO-OP PACKING PLANT

R. R. 1, Gunn, Alberta,
November 18th, 1943.

Mr. H. E. Nichols,
Secretary, A. F. U.,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

Regarding the matter of Co-op packing plant, I have been instructed by this local to ask you to put the suggestion in the Bulletin. We feel that this is a good time to push the Co-op movement as pigs are very much in the farmers' minds at the present time.

Yours sincerely,

R. Person, Secretary,

Rich Valley Local No. 250.

Smoky Heights, Alberta,
November 5th, 1943.

Dear Sir:

You will find enclosed \$16.00 for membership in the Alberta Farmers' Union.

I find that people are more than willing to join the Union if someone will get around and organize them, and as sub-director for this part I will do my best.

Yours truly,

Ted Rycroft.

Beaver Mines, Alberta,
November 27th, 1943.

Mr. H. E. Nichols,

Dear Sir:

I enclose cheque for \$15.00 for fifteen memberships in A. F. U. I am also mailing to Mrs. Pharis, Magrath, \$7.50 for same memberships.

There was a meeting in the hall here a month or so ago when Mr. Boyden, President of Pincher Creek Local brought two organizers, one from High River and the other from Macleod to give addresses.

There was only a small attendance but seven farmers signified their desire for a local branch. I was elected secretary and Ed. Leskosek President. We have been doing some canvassing and last evening held another meeting followed by a dance. There was a good attendance, and we expect several more to join soon.

We have not elected our committee yet thinking it better to defer that until we get more members but a Vice President was elected, Joe Tapay. We are thinking of having two Vice Presidents to represent us in out-lying sections.

Ed. Leskosek lives close to the hall where we have decided to meet second Wednesday each month at 2 p.m.

Yours truly,

W. D. McDowall,

Secretary, Beaver Mines Local No. 561.
BEAVER MINES, Alberta.

News from Peace River

It is quite a time since any news from the Peace River area appeared in our Bulletin and in order to keep our readers posted on what is being done in our Northland, it is a pleasure for me to give you the following account.

Throughout the summer months the three locals situated on the West bank of the River, Three lakes, Stewart and Roma have been having joint meetings and they have proved to be in a large measure a benefit to us all. We have been able to discuss our many problems with a gathering around sixty members and a real interesting meeting is the result with an attendance such as that.

As the winter is now approaching and transportation will become a difficult problem we are now going back to our old method and each group will function alone.

On November 8th the President of Three Lakes local journeyed to Kerndale to be present at their meeting; a real enjoyable time was spent and after their meeting the President addressed them and his topic centered upon the building up of our organization and stressing the need of women and the younger folks in as members. Good results were obtained. One new member signed on the dotted line and around nine new members subscribed to the A. F. U. Bulletin. This is indeed a local that is going to grow. They have real live Officers and what struck a visitor most was the fact that the A. F. U. and the U. F. A. hold their meetings together all sitting in a most friendly way discussing their problems together. This is indeed a great example to us all and a spirit of co-operation that if put into

practice will speedily take us to our goal. This local is fortunate in having a splendid hall where they hold their meetings, equipped with a piano and a body of real enthusiastic workers, whom it is my guess will bring their local to the front.

Three Lakes will be holding their Annual Meeting around the end of the year and arrangements are under way to make it a red letter day. A banquet will be held probably followed by a dance and as most of our memberships expire at this time it is to be hoped that every name now on the books will be renewed. As we believe in giving everyone an opportunity all officers will stand down. It is the intention early in the New Year to make an effort to organize a local in the village of Grimshaw when all locals in and around Peace River will be asked to send their key men to help in this work.

As this will be the last chance to get space in the Bulletin before the New Year the Three Lakes local sends greetings to all our officers and especially to our Worthy secretary Mr. Nichols for the great work they are carrying on for the farmers of this Province and a very Happy New Year to all our readers.

Yours truly,
President, T. Smart, Grimshaw.

MR. CHURCHILL IS LEARNING

Everybody pays attention these days to what Mr. Churchill says or has said and we want to call attention to what he said in 1932. We should remember that in 1926 he was Britain's Minister of Finance and acting on certain advice he tried to restore the Gold Standard in Britain by drastically reducing the available money supply. This action curtailed spending power to such an extent that people could not even buy many necessities of life. Over 200,000 Welsh coal miners were thrown out of work almost overnight and some of them never got a chance to work again until the present war started.

In looking back to that period, Mr. Churchill said in 1932: "When I was moved by many arguments and forces in 1925 to return to the gold standard I was assured by the highest experts, and our experts are men of great ability and of indisputable integrity and sincerity, that we were anchoring ourselves to reality and stability; and I accepted their advice. I take for myself and my colleagues of other days whatever degree of blame and burden there may be for having accepted their advice. But what has happened? We have had no reality, no stability."

And further on he said:

"This new House of Commons contains a great number of new and young legislators. I commend this problem to them as the **supreme topic of the age.**"

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The Only Farmers Union Paper in Alberta

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206 Agency Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find 50 cents for one year (25c for six months) Subscription to the A. F. U. Bulletin.

NAME (Print)

ADDRESS

TASTE OF OWN MEDICINE

Ottawa Gets Form to Fill

OTTAWA. — Ever hear of "formitis"?

That's the government wartime "disease" of red tape.

A Toronto businessman decided he'd had enough of it. He was at the end of his tether after trying to keep up with the avalanche of forms which followed in the wake of a cost-plus contract. At his own expense, he made up a neatly-printed, four-page "request for information" and sent it along to the Munitions Department.

It caused quite a stir. The department heads called in their "brain trusters" and ordered a form jelled up with the same "ingenuity" and "common sense."

For example, they admired the explanation under the signature line: "If you cannot write for any reason mark X and state reasons in your own handwriting."

And they liked question (8): "Do you receive copies of the Parliamentary debates? If answer is 'yes', answer these questions: Do you read them? If answer is 'yes', give reasons. On whose mailing frank are the debates sent you? (Do not answer this question.) List all other reading matter you receive regularly."

And also question (16): "List all rationed articles which are causing you a headache. Are you frequently annoyed by headaches? (Do not answer unless accompanied by doctor's cert.) List all other locations where you have ached: (This must be certified and executed and attached to your doctor's bill)."

Question (7) made them turn green with envy: "Describe in details your activities after 6 p.m. week days, 1 p.m. Saturdays, and 10.30 a.m. Sundays. Do not include Sundays that fall on odd days such as January 17, etc. (Use separate sheet in sealed envelopes not smaller than 3 9/16 by 6 1/2, or larger than 4 1/6 by 9 1/2 inches. Your answer in this question will be treated with strict confidence unless someone wants to see it.)"

And so did question (5) and (6) "Have you a ration book? Do you expect to have any butter coupons left at the end of the year? If answer is 'yes', give reasons why. How many cups of coffee do you drink per day? Would you enjoy a second cup?"

"Do you shave every day? Answer yes or no.) (Women and children under 16 years of age should answer 'does not apply.') Is your razor electric? If your answer is yes, give source of power. We want to know if any of these REA units are serving anyone."

But question (19) was the one they liked best of all: "How much time have you spent on this form? ... days? ... hours? ... minutes? ... seconds? ... Wasted, wasn't it?"

MADHOUSE ECONOMICS

What is the world fighting for? The Atlantic Charter, which is taken as the guiding star, says it is for peace, for a better world, for the four freedoms.

If this is so, why are we afraid of the objectives for which we are pouring out billions of treasure and the blood of millions of men? For there is no doubt, we are afraid.

On Wall Street on Monday there was a slump. Rumours of a possible early peace sent industrial stocks and railroad stocks down. In Winnipeg grain prices fell.

It is not difficult to guess the reason. Business has a feeling that peace would hurt business. Business is geared to war and peace would be destructive, just as war proved destructive in 1939, when business was geared to peace.

On Tuesday, following Mr. Churchill's grave warning that the war's climax and the heaviest losses are still to come, confidence in the continuance of the war restored and prices recovered.

We want peace more than anything else in the world, but our faces grow pale when there seems an early prospect of getting it. We detest war and wish to banish it from the earth, but we feel better when we are assured by the highest authority that war will be with us for many months yet.

If this is not the economics of a madhouse, what is it?

Vancouver Daily Province,
Wednesday, November 10th, 1943.

(Editor's Note).

"During the war the government borrows a lot of money and spends it on armament. Armament is something the people can't buy but they get wages in producing it. So all the other industries have this additional buying power to add to what they pay out themselves. And it keeps them going by giving them a market.

"So a war is one of the illogical and certainly tragic ways the economic system can be got to "add up."

"Of course the price of it among other things is a tremendous addition to the National Debt", and the only way to avoid that is to use the Bank of Canada to issue public credit in terms of public Need.

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Challenge to All Farmers

A copy of the statement entitled a "Challenge to all Farmers" has been sent out to all locals. Some have not yet returned them. If you wish to exercise your power you must send these in as directed as soon as your local has authorized it. If you have not received a copy, send for one immediately.

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Bacon Contract and the Strike Ballot

The New Bacon Contract has become a Nation wide controversy because the organized farmers dared to question the way in which it was announced and the fairness of its terms. Had there been no bodies of organized farmers to make audible protest the whole thing would have been quietly put over in spite of what a few individual farmers might have said and the general public would have known nothing about it. As it is, it has become an issue in which all the people of Canada and Britain are interested; and even though no change is made in the contract itself the people of Canada will have a much better opportunity to judge of the merits of the case because of the facts which are being brought out. Mr. Gardiner seems to be one of those unfortunate individuals who cannot open his mouth without putting his foot into it. The first reports of his attitude were rather to his credit as he is supposed to have been in favour of subsidizing the price so that the hog producer would have received equal advantages to the grower of grain. The rest of the Cabinet are presumed to have overruled his request, and it would look as if the policies so strongly advocated by Mr. Ilsley and Donald Gordon defeated him. However, in his later speeches Mr. Gardiner now defends the terms of the New contract and tries to camouflage the issue by bringing in the question of heavier hogs lowering the quality of Canadian bacon. These two issues are there; but they are separate and distinct. The New contract was announced in such a way that it led hog producers to think that the previous Government policy of encouraging hog production had been abandoned and Canadian bacon was not now so badly needed as it had been. Farmers had been hard put to it to make the increases which they did. Shortage of lumber and labor and higher costs all round took most of the cream of what looked like a very attractive price and overburdened with work as he has been, many farm-

ers were glad to drop pig-feeding. The increase in grain prices previously announced had already helped to dampen any enthusiasm he may have felt towards higher hog production and the announcement of the lowered minimum of the New bacon contract, clinched the argument.

CUT ON HEAVIES

The matter of the drastic cut of \$3.00 per carcass on the hog which weighs only one pound overweight is a different question and has been before the Minister since last spring when a resolution was sent to him by the Alberta Farmers' Union which was printed in the May issue of our Bulletin. This matter was later on taken up by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture and it seemed as if the authorities were considering the removal of this drastic penalty. However, nothing was done and now Mr. Gardiner misconstrues this into a plea to lower the quality of our bacon exports and he exploits the danger of losing the British Bacon market after the war.

All that the hog producers want is to be assured that this drastic cut of \$3.00 per carcass is handed on to the consumer, whether it is the British Consumer or the Canadian Consumer as they are no longer willing to suffer the injustice of being subject to severe penalties while the benefits go to the packers who have the advantage of a guaranteed price.

We believe that hog raisers in Alberta wish to raise all the bacon that Britain needs and can take. They also know that costs have so risen that they must get higher prices if they are going to carry on from any other motive than a Patriotic one. If it has to be done from a patriotic motive, then the whole Nation should share in it and hog prices should be subsidized so that the hog producers are not the only ones who will have the chance to show their patriotism. If this subsidy had been given there would be no need for Britain to receive a lowered ration and any responsibility for not doing this rests on those members of the Cabinet who together with their advisers decided against it.

One other very sore spot with the hog producer who raises his own feed is the fact that he cannot share in the bonus the same as the man who buys his feed. In similar circumstances the miller is entitled to a drawback on all wheat for which he pays in excess of 77c per bushel. Why not similar treatment for the Western hog producer who grows his own feed. The Eastern hog feeder gets it because he can buy Western feed, freight free, and less the bonus, while the net returns from his hogs increases with his nearness to the seaboard. Hence the demand for a non-delivery strike ballot which appears on another page.

Farmer's Call for "Strike" Ballot

The Executive of the Alberta Farmers' Union held a five day meeting in Edmonton last week at which many matters of great concern to the farmers were considered. One of the chief items was the matter of the new bacon contract with which the hog producers of Alberta are absolutely dissatisfied and they have issued the following statement in regard to it:

STATEMENT

The present hog situation is entirely unsatisfactory both from the point of view of the British people who need the bacon and the Western Canadian Hog Producer.

The action of the Minister of Agriculture and the Canadian Government in making a contract which specified the delivery of a lower minimum combined with the small raise in price left the impression with the Western Farmers that hogs were not now so badly needed as before.

The information has since come out that Britain needs just as much bacon as before and needs it badly and wishes a continuation of the higher amount; but the action of the Canadian Government has already resulted in considerable liquidation of breeding stock and will eventually result in shipping large quantities of feed grain from Alberta to Ontario, who will benefit mostly from the Government's action.

We, Western farmers, want to raise bacon for Britain, ALL SHE NEEDS, and we think the only real reasons why it will not be possible to fill those needs are the mishandling of the man power question whereby too many men were taken from the farms and also the price being paid is not sufficient to enable the farmer to raise hogs on a paying basis.

Several definite requests have been sent in by the Alberta Farmers' Union and also many other bodies of organized producers to the Department of Agriculture asking for a revision of the proposed new Bacon Contract but up to the present time no satisfactory reply has been received.

The following statement was made by the Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, British High Commissioner to Canada, quote, "The simple fact is, that without the help of Canadian farmers the war would have been lost two years or more ago."

The Executive of the Alberta Farmers' Union acting under strong pressure from the general membership feels the situation calls for immediate action. In the absence of any satisfactory reply from the Department of Agri-

culture we are compelled to do this. The constant flouting of the farmers' reasonable requests together with the apparent heedlessness of the Dominion Government to the welfare of the people of Britain has resulted in strong pressure being exerted on the Executive to submit a ballot to our members concerning the non-delivery of hogs until an adjustment is made in the new bacon contract which will provide a sufficient minimum amount of bacon for Britain together with a subsidy or a raise in price to the producer which will net him at least \$20.00 per 100 lbs on rail at main Western shipping points.

This matter should be discussed at the locals and if they are in favour of the Executive putting out a "strike" ballot, notify head office, according to instruction which will be sent to the Secretaries.

The matter of the bonus on coarse grains was also considered and a letter was addressed to the Dominion Department of Agriculture pointing out the disadvantage of the hog raiser who feeds grain of his own raising as compared to the feeder who buys grain and thus gets the advantage of the bonus discount.

It was pointed out that the farmer who feeds his own grain was being penalized to the extend of \$3.00 per hog and this should be removed.

Attention was again drawn to the drastic cut of \$3.00 on hogs which were only 1 pound over the limit and that no such cut was imposed in the United States.

The Farmer's Income

We hear a good deal of discussion these days about the fact that the sale of Canadian farm products has increased by 25 per cent over the preceding year. Many are jumping to the conclusion that because of this our farmers are 25 per cent better off than they were.

This is a complete fallacy. It is true that with agricultural prices now up to the 1913-14 "parity" level, our farming families are somewhat better off than they were in 1939, but additional gross income is not a proper yardstick to use in measuring the farmer's welfare.

It must never be forgotten, too, that the costs which farmers have to pay for production have steadily increased from the start of this war, and that farmers, unlike industrial labor, receive no Dominion bonus to make up for their additional costs of living and production.

Explanation of Parity

LETTER TO HONOURABLE JAMES G. GARDINER

Dear Mr. Gardiner:

Your recent statement to the press that farm returns are now above "Parity" raises the whole question of what constitutes Parity. The word Parity does not infer that a certain stationary price has been reached. It means that a reasonable relationship exists between farm receipts as compared with other prices.

Certain periods of time have been selected from which to compute what should be a Parity Price now; but this is not even admitting that the prices existing during the basic period were real Parity Prices.

It merely gives us a base to start from and all factors which enter into, detract from, or add to, the farmers income must be taken into account.

During the base periods generally referred to viz., 1913-1914 or the average of 1926-1929 the farmers income was only about 50% of what it should have been because he composes 1/3 of the population but only received about 1/6 to 1/7 of the National Income during those times.

The Parity Price basis of 1926-1929 should have been the established price for farm produce in 1941 when the Ceiling was set up. Since that time the added costs of production especially labour should have been added into farm prices in order to maintain a close approach to Parity.

We believe that the definition given by the Liberal Government as it related to industrial wages viz., that the highest wages paid between 1926 and December 1940 are fair and reasonable, would also apply more nearly to farm prices than any other definition; but it would still only be a base to work from.

If we accept this definition we find that Parity Prices on most prominent farm production would be as follows:

Wheat \$1.60, Oats 69c, Barley 90c, Flax \$3.00, Rye 90c, and hogs \$16.25 on hoof.

None of these have yet reached this basic Parity but beef cattle possibly have. In addition to this we have to consider the labour situation. As farm labour costs are now between 200% and 300% higher than they were in 1926-1940 this will require that whatever proportionate share labour costs bear to the whole of farm production costs, must be added in order to maintain the farmers Parity Price.

The following paragraph is from the February letter of the Canadian Bank of Commerce:— 1943.

"Our index of farm revenue rose to 88.8 (1926—100), the highest level since 1930, compared with the 83.6 for the pre-

ceding twelve months. — Farm costs, however, rose from 89.5 to 98.5 owing chiefly to higher wages, with the result that farm purchasing power (revenue divided by costs) fell from 93.4 to 90.1..."

It is clear that while our American rural brethren are calling for "Parity", plus 10%, prior to the application of the over-all price ceiling, Canadian farmers are not yet within shouting distance of "Parity."

Even if Parity Prices are attained, there is still the debt situation to consider as Parity Prices would not make any provision for back debts to be paid and maintain a reasonable standard of living and these latter two reasons are why the farmers of the U. S. A. consider that they are entitled to something above present Parity in order to overtake the disadvantages from which they suffered during the "less than Parity" years.

All these factors have to be taken into consideration when estimating what Parity should now be and we think it would take a continuing committee to gauge from time to time what such a Parity would be.

We believe that as the Minister representing Agriculture in the Dominion of Canada you should give consideration to setting up such a committee because it is indispensable to the future welfare of Canada that Agriculturalists receive a just price for their products and it appears to us that a reasonable relationship must exist at all times in order to have Parity prices. This will involve continual readjustment as all the other factors which enter into this relationship fluctuate either up or down.

Yours truly,

H. E. Nichols,

Secretary, Alberta Farmers' Union.

SOVIET ISOLATION SAID BIG DANGER

LONDON. — Sir Samuel Hoare, British ambassador to Spain, said that the great danger to Europe after the war is not Russian influence, but Russian isolation.

In the address to Chelsea war workers, Sir Samuel, home for consultations after a recent meeting with the strongly anti-Communist Spanish dictator, Gen. Francisco Franco, said:

"In any stable Europe, the greatest of the Slav peoples, whose territories possess vast resources and whose achievements have amazed the world, must take its rightful place.

"Communism, for all the claims of some of its propagandists, is a national and not international product.

"It is brought about by internal conditions. If you fear it, you should set your house in order that your social and political conditions will silence any demand for its introduction."

The Annual Convention

A circular letter has been sent to the Secretary of each local as follows:

"Dear Sir:

This is important, and we wish you to call a meeting of your local if you have not already done so and inform your members that NOW is the time to be up and doing if they are determined that the Dominion Government shall take notice of the policies advocated by the Alberta Farmers' Union.

The Provincial Annual Convention will be held in Edmonton on January 25th, 26th, and 27th, at the Masonic Temple and at that Convention we want to be able to announce a large increase in the membership. We can only do so if a large number of new members are obtained between NOW and the end of December. The present membership is about the same as last year. Therefore, we want each one of our members to do their very best to get at least one new member before the end of the year.

One delegate for every 20 members is the representation set for this year because it will be difficult to find housing accommodation in Edmonton. Each local is entitled to at least one delegate. Credential papers will be sent later and each local will be required to pay \$1.00 Convention Fee and each delegate will be furnished with a ribbon for 25 cents. The railway fares will be pooled so that all delegates will pay the same.

Get busy and appoint your delegates so that your local has proper representation at the Farmers' Parliament.

The cut off date for receiving resolutions so as to be in time to guarantee their consideration by the Convention has been set for December 31st, 1943.

Each delegate should try to obtain their own rooming accommodation if possible."

A banquet has been arranged for the evening Wednesday, January 26th, and arrangements are also being made for lunch to be served each day right in the building for those who wish it.

Another Membership Contest

Mr. Ashby has again decided to offer a prize in another membership contest. Therefore commencing 15th September the member or local who gets the most new members by the 31st December, 1943 will be entitled to a purebred gilt or boar from Mr. Ashby's herd of Yorkshires.

An Old Country View

MONETARY REFORM RESPECTABLE

By P. C. Loftus, M. P. (conservative) British House of Commons.

For many years some of us, a small group inside this house and outside, have been demanding monetary reform under very discouraging conditions. It is a strange fact that either in this House or in the press you could attack with impunity ancient, immemorial, human institutions, the family, marriage, property, religion, and yet maintain a reputation of complete respectability. But if a few years ago you ventured to criticise in a constructive and most moderate manner the financial system, you were suspended at once and regarded as almost outside the pale and as rather disreputable. Yet during the last year or two we have seen public opinion change with great rapidity. Chambers of Commerce, various trade organizations, such as the textile trade organization and so on — all those bodies are coming out now with recommendations and suggestions and policies such as we were advocating seven or eight years ago. Now we see that what were regarded as wild ideas becoming entirely orthodox.

I feel myself that ultimately the State itself without damaging in any way the joint stock banks, without interfering with their ownership or management, will resume directly or indirectly the control of the creation and expansion and contraction of all kinds of credit money. Meantime I put forward today this immediate moderate reform.

I will conclude by saying that we who advocate monetary reform do not believe that it will by itself create a new heaven and a new earth and eradicate original sin from the heart of man; but we do say that if you attempt after this war to re-establish the old rigid monetary system as you did after the last war, then your schemes of re-construction will fail utterly. We do say that if you want to combine security for those who suffer from the hardships of life, and individual liberty to the greatest extent, you must build on the basis of a reformed monetary system.

Finally, after this war, when the young men come home from the armed forces, if we want to give them scope for the qualities they are showing in war, for courage, initiative, preparedness to take risks, if we wish to give them scope to exercise those qualities in Peace, then we must not cramp and restrict them by the bands of an outworn financial system, but we must establish some monetary policy which will give the utmost scope for those qualities of individualism and initiative which will maintain liberty in the Country and help to build up a higher standard of living and a happier and a healthier civilization for the future of our people.

200 Attend A. F. U. First Banquet

Local Branch of Alberta Farmers' Union have Successful Evening. C. O. McGowan Guest Speaker Says "Parity Not Charity".

The first Annual Banquet of the local branch of the Alberta Farmers' Union was held at High River in the I.O.O.F. hall, Friday evening, bringing together two hundred farm people of the district in an evening of feasting, entertainment and information.

The guest speaker of the evening was the Provincial past President of the A. F. U., Chester McGowan of Hairy Hill, Alberta. He not only gave a forceful address but was "the life of the party" in the social program.

The bountiful chicken dinner with all the appetizing trimmings was realized through donations of interested supporters, and the help of a number of the ladies.

A gratifying feature of the evening was the sign-up of twenty or more new members.

Following the dinner the crowd adjourned to the lodge hall for a program and later for the dancing which concluded the evening.

President B. E. Howe of the local union, proved a capable chairman, and entertainers included a duet by the twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Bray, and a duet also by the Misses McKay of Aldersyde. These young people made a very popular appeal and were insistently encored. Sing-songs were led by Mr. Childress.

Mr. Howe called upon W. Childress president of District 12 for a brief opening address. The district president spoke of the great increase in membership. He touched on the hog situation, and the opinion that Canadian hog prices be on parity with those on the U. S. market. Referring to a recent U. F. A. convention on amalgamation of U. F. A. and A. F. U., he reported that he had sent fraternal greetings to the convention offering utmost support in the progress of amalgamation of the two farm bodies. He spoke of the extreme south of the province as almost completely organized for the Union.

Mr. McGowan gave an interesting sketch of the grain strike at Willingdon, and how by drastic measure the farmers had succeeded in raising grades from No. 6 to No. 3. "Railway unions" he said, "have only to mention strike, and they are granted full parity wages." The miners have only to mention strike and show action, and the slack is taken up for them to full parity wages. The farmer who is the force that brings into being all worth-while production of the world, has to date no thorough organization to get for him even parity cost of production. He spoke of the teachers' organization which has been in operation for 24 years, but

had only achieved real results from organization last year. There is no reason, he said, for farmers to be discouraged, but the purpose is to go forward.

Touching on co-operatives, his opinion was that they were all right in their place, but there must be a watch kept that the co-operatives do not gravitate toward the same evils as big business and control by small cliques.

The Farmers' Union, he said was bound by no political ties. It asked parity not charity. The fight for survival must be won by co-operation of all farmers. They must be ready to employ to the full what economic strength they have. Fair prices for production bring results that pass along to bring eventual prosperity for all.

"Farmers must be union minded," he said. "They must be trade unionists at heart. The Western farmer has never been properly organized yet, and the New Order must come before war is over." In conclusion he urged the High River farmers to organize 100% and join the Union. Bonafide farmers should remember that even shoeshiners have their union, and membership costing \$5.00 per year.

One observation was that the Union is making headway to join the Trade Unions of America. Delaying this is the fact that a handful of farmers are capitalists and profiteers of labor. This will be ironed out, and when the Unions are joined, farmers will realize Parity Prices, even as Trade Union get full parity wages.

Dancing for three hours with the Shantz orchestra, and an able master of ceremonies in charge, served to conclude a big night for the farmers of High River.

Farmer's Aid and Greatest Foe

From the High River Times, Sept, 17, 1943.

One of the most frequently used expressions of all times is "You can't do this to me." But in these times people are finding out just how much is being done to them that they didn't think could ever be done. They are taking a great deal that they never expected to be asked to take.

Of all people schooled in the discipline of having things done to them without consultation or consent, the farmers rank high. Their whole life labors are carried on with a silent partner who can do anything to them at any time, and to protest is merely waste of breath.

They wake up in the morning to find grain and gardens frosted, and it would be the height of futility for them to shake their fists and protest "You can't do this to me." It is already done, without any time for parley, any conciliation

boards or arbitration, any "by your leave."

In almost every other line of endeavor there is some meeting ground, some chance to discuss, avert or modify impending doom. The parties concerned are human beings, or the conditions in almost every situation are man created. In such instances there may be good reason for saying "You can't do this to me." Perhaps it shouldn't be done. There may be some important principle involved, but everything is tied up with the manipulations of man, and his attitude to fellow man.

But the tiller of the soil in his essential relations with nature is quite outside the protection which might come from collective bargaining, united action or any solid front. Organization, in the sense that labor organizes, would be immensely beneficial to him in his marketings, and his dealings with fellowman.

But outside and beyond that is his relation with forces of nature. He knows that even if he held markets in the hollow of his hand, that would bring him only part security. The other part of his welfare would depend on influences entirely above human control. His crop of any nature depends on soil, sunshine, moisture — all those things that are indifferent to man's pleading or any attempts at negotiation.

It is quite possible that this may be one explanation of why farm husbandmen do not unite en masse for their rights. They feel that even though they did shout "You can't do this to me" in a voice so strong as to bring terror to all human listeners, they would still have their old silent partner, Nature, to deal with. And Nature in its omnipotence would laugh and spring another surprise.

*

(Ed. Note). — It will be easy for our farmer to find the flaws in the argument presented here. Farmers do not suffer so much because of the afflictions of nature as they do because of the afflictions of low prices; generally brought about by over-plentiful crops.

We often think of the old American senator who said "If it was not for the frost and hail and drought, and army worm, and Hessian Fly, the grasshopper, the cut worm, root rot and the caterpillar; it would be impossible for the American Farmer to make a living."

It seems as if there is one thing that we will not tolerate on this Earth under the existing system; and that is a plentitude of anything. We must have scarcity in order to be happy.

DISTRICT SIX NEWS

The organizational tour of the Northern part of Sub district One of District Six turned out very successful. The weather was ideal and enthusiastic meetings were held. There is a general agreement among farmers attending these

meetings that a strong union is necessary to protect their interests. It is evident that the farmers of this territory recognize the fact that in order to compete with other organized classes they themselves must be highly organized.

Meetings were held at Opal, Redwater, Waugh, Fedorah, Egremont, Radway, Amelia, and Eldorena. All these points now have locals as three new locals were formed at Opal, Amelia, and Eldorena. Officers of the new locals are as follows:

OPAL — Pres. Joe. Wilflingseder, Vice Pres. W. Wilcox, Sec. Treas. H. Wachowich. The directors are to be elected at the next meeting.

AMELIA — Pres. Elie Romaniuk, Vice Pres. Steve Fedorak, Sec. Treas. Mike Sawka. Directors—W. Paskaluk, Peter Lakusta, Nick Bigoray, and A. Moreau.

ELDORENA — Pres. O. Toronchuck, Vice Pres. Bennie Litwin, Sec. Treas. Chas. Polanski. Directors—O. Litwin, John Plachner, Pete Mazurenko, and N. Oryschuk.

On behalf of the other speakers on this tour, Mr. Wm. Yusep, Director for District Six, and W. S. Oliver, Sub-director, I wish these new locals the best of success in their organizational work. I, also, wish to thank the members of the other locals visited for their co-operation in making this tour a success. Let us all march forward together to a 100% sign-up and Parity Prices.

Yours very truly,

V. E. Toane,

Vice President of District Six.

Revision in the Bank Act

The revision in the Bank Act which is supposed to take place every ten years is due next year. It is reported that in view of other important matters this may be put off as owing to the fact that there are now more monetary reformers in the House than there used to be, the discussion may be a long one.

This matter is too important to be deferred as Mr. Ilsley himself admits that under the present set-up the fear of inflation is great.

The Bank Act should be amended so that an increase in the cash reserves of the Chartered Banks at the Bank of Canada does not enable the Chartered Banks to inflate their loaning capacity many times.

It is because of this provision in the Bank Act that "inflation" can automatically take place if the services of the Bank of Canada are used to finance the needs of the Country.

If Mr. Ilsley would see to it that one simple regulation is amended there would be no danger of the inflation which he seems to fear so much.

RADIO FUND DONATIONS

November 8th. M. D. Kuhr	\$2.00
November 9th. J. E. Sabourin	1.00
November 13th. Mrs. J. Geddes, Winterburn, Huron Local, No. 261	2.00
November 16th. Wm. Dallaire, Mallaig.	1.00
November 17th. M. Lundgard, Royce, Secy Royce Local No. 291	5.00
November 18th. John Gudzan, Star, Secy., Skaro Local No. 47	5.00
November 20th. J. Adamyk, St. Michael, Secy., St. Michael Local No. 61	2.00
November 22nd. J. Borgedahl, Valhalla Centre, Poplar Hill Local No. 446	2.00
November 23rd. A. Hamaluik, Ukalta, Secy., Ukalta Local No. 44	2.00
November 24th. A. J. McDonald, Waskatenau	50
November 24th. Don Friend, Genesee, Secy., Genesee Local No. 519	5.00
November 24th. Mrs. Vera Starr, Clyde, Secy., Anton Lake Local No. 166	2.00
November 25th. Marks Sockman, Thorhild, Goldsboro Local No. 82	2.00
November 27th. Fred Hlus, Morecambe, Secy., Beauvallon, Local No. 51	5.00
November 30th. Wm. Fuerst, Bashaw, Secy., Manfred Local No. 496	20.00
November 30th. Wm. Duk, New Kiew, Secy., New Kiew Local No. 94	3.60
December 1st. W. M. Hunter, Pouce Coupe, Secy., Central School Local No. 301	4.00
December 1st. G. E. Kobbert, Royce, (Personal)50
December 2nd. D. A. Kahl, Red Willow, Red Willow Local No. 535	5.00
December 2nd. E. O. Grimsrud, Wembley, Saskatoon Lake Local No. 270	10.00
December 6th. T. Ouellet, Donnelly, Secy., Donnelly Local No. 426	2.00
December 6th. A. H. Smith, Brightview, Secy., Brightview Local No. 186	3.00
December 7th. Joe Holubowich, Myrnam, South River Local No. 71	2.00
December 7th. Walter Hirsekorn, Leduc, Dalgren Local No. 199	20.64
December 7th. Rudolph Price, Calmar, (Personal)	3.00

There seems to be a tradition that the farmer is a chronic grumbler. Well, perhaps he is; but it can be very effectively shown that he has something to grumble about. Wheat prices on the open market are rising and are considerably above wheat board prices and so everything is supposed to be hunky-dorey and the farmer should have one big smile.

Now you wage and salary earners just apply the farmers situation to yourself. Suppose

you were promised a raise in pay but the condition attached was that you would only receive about one-third of your total pay when it was due and the rest would have to be deferred to some unknown future date, and instead of you getting interest on the unpaid portion; interest would be charged against you. It would not look so hot would it? If in addition you received no protection from your creditors for rent, groceries, etc., whose bills you could not meet because of your deferred pay you would be very likely to deny that your "wage boost" was of the slightest benefit to you.

Many farmers are in this position. Out of a 45 bushel crop of wheat last year they can only sell 15. But their income is figured as if they sold the whole 45 bushels. In the meantime they have to store the other 30. But get no storage charge!

But elevators receive storage charge!

The farmer has to buy lumber which has risen 100% in price and is of a lower quality. In some cases shingles are impossible to obtain.

At the present time a five bushel quota is all that he can deliver of this year's crop. Such an allowance will not pay expenses but at the same time the farmer must pay interest on all those unpaid bills which are incidental to the raising of the crop. In other words the farmers are subsidizing the rest of Canada and when the war is won, largely because of his contribution, the mortgage companies will do their best to get him kicked off his farm. Are we entitled to grumble, well what do you, Mr. fellow worker think?

Department of Agriculture Notes

Farmers and feeders wishing to purchase grain for feed may do so at previously established prices, that is at the price less the equalization payment. Regulations pertaining to these transactions or information concerning same may be obtained at country elevators. Producers selling oats and barley for which they obtain the equalization payments, may not at a later date purchase a similar quantity for feed at a price less the equalization payment.

Since November 1st, it has been possible on farm to farm transactions for the seller to obtain equalization payments, and for the farmer buying feed to do so at previous prices, provided the transaction is completed with both parties present, and that grain is weighed and dockage determined at country elevators or licensed dealers.

Inquiries regarding these transactions should be made to Agents of licensed elevators, or direct to the Canadian Wheat Board at Calgary or Winnipeg. The Provincial Department of Agriculture exercises no authority in matters of this nature since grain marketing is a function of the Dominion Government.

Seed and Feed Grain Requirements

The Field Crops Branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture urges that the farmers give immediate consideration to seed requirements for spring planting period.

In some areas namely west of Edmonton Calgary lines, because of frost, seed oats will have to be shipped in from more fortunate Districts. The agents of Elevator Companies are at present endeavouring to determine the amount of seed that will be needed for each shipping point and farmers are urged to make their requirements known.

When this survey has been completed it is expected that definite orders for seed can be placed with Elevator Agents who will compile them into carload quantities.

The Field Crop Branch will then be in a position to know just what seed is needed and they will endeavour to obtain Commercial No. 1 seed of the variety required for shipment to the districts.

Meetings can be held in your district if your locals will make a request to District Agriculturist, for the above purpose.

Want Compulsory Unionism for Aussie Farmers

Compulsory unionism for the whole of the primary producers of Australia, was embodied in a resolution passed by the annual meeting of the Farmers' and Settlers' Association of New South Wales, in August. The compulsory clause of the resolution was vigorously opposed, but an amendment to the resolution that it be deleted was lost. Many speakers claimed that only by compulsory organization would it be possible for agriculture to acquire and maintain an equitable place in the economic life of the nation. The mover of the resolution stated that the Labor Party was advocating compulsory unionism and if that policy were adopted it would necessarily include the primary producers. The need for a powerful national union of farmers, he said, was urgent in Australia. Another speaker referred to the building of the F.S.A. by the sweat and toil of a few while outside were many farmers who were enjoying the benefits of all their work without lending a helping hand.

Commenting on the resolution "The Land," the official organ of the Association said: "Ap-

parently such a scheme, if accomplished, would mean the sweeping away of all existing organizations of producers in all the states, including the Farmers' and Settlers' Association, together with any political affiliation they may have. The National Farmers' Union, if it comes into existence, will be a non-political organization."

A special feature of the debate was the favorable attitude of the farmers to the inclusion of rural workers in the jurisdiction of the tribunals which establish basic rates of wages, hours and conditions of labor. Hitherto the farmers have opposed bringing farm workers under the basic wage legislation, but speakers at this annual meeting took the ground that if farmers were compelled to pay a living wage they would be in a better position to demand a living price for their products.

In this connection "The Land" says: "On the whole it seems logical to believe that if all the primary industries had been long ago brought into the framework of the industrial arbitration system, with its fixing of hours, wages and conditions, they would have had much more success in their appeal to the general community for payable prices."

Bacon Producers Discuss Contract

Concerned with the future of their industry as a result of the recently announced terms of the new bacon and ham contract with Great Britain, a group of representative hog producers of the Edmonton District met in the city recently under the chairmanship of A. E. Long. After a discussion of the problem of present-day hog production and a study of a history of their efforts during the war years, the meeting sent a strongly worded protest to the Dominion minister of agriculture concerning the new hog price.

Under the contract with Great Britain now being negotiated farmers are to receive an increase in the price of their hogs of only 50 cents a hundredweight. This week's meeting was emphatic that this was insufficient to bring out the production necessary for the new schedule of shipments overseas. Those in attendance endorsed a recommendation of \$20.00 a hundredweight, dressed weight for hog carcasses in Alberta.

The secretary of the meeting, Louise H. O'Neill, was instructed to communicate the meeting's views to Ottawa, and failing the receipt of a satisfactory reply to petition officers of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture for leadership in obtaining and making known to Ottawa the opinions of hog growers on the price issue in all the production areas of the province.

TWO BILLION POUNDS OF BACON

RESOLUTION passed at a meeting sponsored by the Alberta Livestock Associations and addressed by Mr. Taggart at the Masonic Temple in Edmonton on December 1st, 1943 entitled 2 billion pounds of bacon.

RESOLUTION

The Dominion government is about to decide on the terms of a new Bacon contract.

The announcement of the terms of the new contract has resulted in a storm of protest from hog producers both with regard to the minimum amount and also the small raise in price.

This announced policy together with the recent increase in grain prices has thrown confusion into the minds of hog producers who had previously requested a raise in hog prices owing to the increased costs of producing hogs, these costs including such items as concentrates, fencing, labour, etc., to which has now been added the bonus on coarse grains. The hog feeder who raises most of his own feed grain is now at a greater disadvantage than before and the result of these policies has been the liquidation of a large number of breeding stock. It will be impossible to stop this liquidation unless an immediate announcement is made of a more favourable contract and it is doubtful if even the minimum amount will be forthcoming. We now know that Britain needs the bacon and needs it badly and will have to suffer shorter rations unless an amount equal to that of last year can be exported. If hogs need to be subsidized to pay a fair price to the producer, then it should be done; and Canada as a whole bear the cost and not put all the burden on the hog producer, because this is being done as a National effort.

We, the hog producers of Alberta, therefore demand that a price of \$20 per 100, on rail, at main shipping points across Canada be paid for two years in order to ensure a fair price to the producer and guarantee to Britain the amount of bacon she needs in order to carry on the war.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHANGE IN SCHOOL YEAR

Owing to the drastic shortage of farm help in the spring of 1943 the Alberta Provincial Government after consulting various educational and farmer bodies decided to make a change in the school year. It was decided to extend the summer holiday period until October 15th. This enables boys and girls of high school age who lived on the farm to help with harvest work

during the extended holiday period without losing any school days. The boys and girls whose parents were not farmers had the opportunity of working on farms under certain conditions or if not wanted there they could work at any job where their services were needed. In order to make up for the number of school days lost under this arrangement it was proposed to shorten or eliminate some of the other holiday periods and also keep the schools open through the month of July and in this way keep the number of school days up to normal.

This arrangement does not seem to please the parents of many of the town children and they are making strong protests to have the schools return to the former schedule.

The Alberta Farmers' Union supported the new arrangement believing that it operated more fairly for the farm children who would be kept at home to help with the harvest work even though school was open.

In view of these facts we would like our locals to consider the following resolution and if they are in favour of it to pass it at their local meeting and send in one copy to Head Office and one copy to the Minister of Education.

WHEREAS having in view the continued shortage of help on the farms and also the necessity for continuing high production we request the Provincial Government to continue with the practice of closing all schools until 15 October and making up the necessary school days by curtailing other holiday periods and keeping the schools open during the month of July. Under this arrangement the rural boys and girls would have the same opportunity of getting in a full school year as those whose parents live in the towns or cities.

AND

Such an arrangement would be fair to all the students and although a certain amount of inconvenience will be caused to parents yet we believe it is in the best interests of our children.

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